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1907

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD

RULES

FRAMED BY THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD

Under Section 3 I. of the Midwives Act, 1902

(2 Edw 7, c. 17)

*PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE
CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD*

Printed by

SPOTTISWOODE & CO. LTD., NEW-STREET SQUARE, LONDON

1907




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AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WHITEHALL,

THE 24TH DAY OF APRIL, 1907.

BY THE LORDS OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE
PRIVY COUNCIL.

WHEREAS there were this day read at the Board certain Rules, framed by the Central Midwives Board in pursuance of Section 3 of the Midwives Act, 1902 :

And whereas it is provided by the said Act that Rules so framed shall be valid only if approved by the Privy Council :

NOW, THEREFORE, their Lordships, having taken into consideration the said Rules, together with a representation of the General Medical Council with respect thereto, are pleased to approve certain of the said Rules as set forth in the Schedule hereunto annexed for the period ending September 30th, 1909, and to continue in force for the same period Section C. 1. of the Rules approved by their Lordships on the 12th day of August, 1903.

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CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

Rules framed under Section 3 I. of the Midwives
Act, 1902 (2 Edw. 7. c. 17).

A.—REGULATING THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD.

1. CHAIRMAN.—The Chairman shall be elected by ballot at the first meeting of the Board in the month of April in each year, and shall hold office until the first meeting in the month of April in the year following.

2. HON. TREASURER.—An Honorary Treasurer may be elected by ballot from among the members of the Board at their first meeting in the month of April in each year, and, if appointed, shall hold office until the first meeting in the month of April in the year following.

3. CASUAL VACANCIES.—Should the office of Chairman fall vacant during the year, it shall be filled by election at the next meeting of the Board, and the member so elected shall hold office for the remainder of the year for which his predecessor was elected. A vacancy in the office of Honorary Treasurer shall be filled in the same manner, should the Board so determine.

4. MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet on the last Thursday in each month, unless otherwise decided at the previous meeting, and at such other times as may be necessary. The Chairman may at any time convene a meeting of the Board, and the Secretary shall convene a meeting if required to do so by any three members of the Board by writing under their hands.

5. NOTICE.—Not less than four days' notice of any meeting shall be given to each member of the Board, directed to such address as he or she may from time to time furnish to the Secretary.

6. QUORUM.—The quorum of the Board shall be four.

7. ORDER OF BUSINESS.—The order of business shall be as follows :—

- (1) Minutes of the last meeting.
- (2) Correspondence.
- (3) Reports of Committees.
- (4) Notices of motion.
- (5) Business arising directly under the Act.
- (6) Statement of Accounts.
- (7) Bills and claims.
- (8) Any other business.
- (9) Date of next meeting.

Provided that the Board may at any meeting vary the order of business on the ground of urgency or convenience.

8. ABSENCE OF CHAIRMAN.—In the event of the Chairman not being present at any meeting of the Board, the Chair shall be taken by the Honorary Treasurer; and if neither the Honorary Treasurer nor the Chairman be present, the Board shall elect a presiding Chairman for that meeting.

9. AGENDA.—No business which is not upon the Agenda Paper shall be discussed at any meeting of the Board (except routine business) unless the Chairman shall declare such business to be of an urgent nature, and shall be supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting.

10. VOTING.—Every question, the manner of voting on which is not otherwise specified in these rules, shall

be decided on a show of hands by a majority of members present and voting, but any member may call for a division, in which case the names for and against shall be taken down in writing and entered on the Minutes. In the case of an equality of votes the presiding Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

11. MOTIONS.—Every motion or amendment shall be moved and seconded, and shall be reduced to writing and handed to the Chairman (if so required by him), and shall be read, before it is further discussed or put to the meeting.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION.—Every notice of motion shall be in writing, signed by the member giving the notice, and shall be given or sent to the Secretary, who shall insert in the Agenda Papers for any meeting of the Board all notices of motion which he may have received one clear day prior to the day on which the Agenda Paper is sent out to members, in the order in which they have been received by him.

13. RESCINDING OF RESOLUTION.—No resolution of the Board shall be altered or rescinded at a subsequent meeting except upon a notice of motion of which a copy has been sent out to members by the Secretary fourteen clear days before such meeting.

14. COMMITTEES.—Every Committee appointed by the Board shall make a report of its proceedings to the Board, and the recommendations of every Committee shall, so far as practicable, be in the form of resolutions, to be considered by the Board; and the acts and proceedings of every Committee shall be submitted to the Board for approval, unless the resolution of the Board appointing the Committee shall otherwise direct in respect of all or any of the matters referred to it.

15. REPORTS.—Every report from a Committee shall be submitted by the Chairman of the Committee (if

present) who shall move that it be received by the Board, and on the motion being carried, the Chairman, or any other member of the Committee, may move to agree with the resolutions of the Committee, and such resolutions shall be considered *seriatim*. And the question that the report (if necessary, as amended) be now approved shall be put from the Chair, but no debate shall be allowed thereon.

16. **BILLS AND CLAIMS.**—All bills and claims shall be examined by the Secretary, and if allowed by the Board shall be initialed by the presiding Chairman.

17. **CHEQUES.**—All cheques for the payment of money shall be signed by two members of the Board, and countersigned by the Secretary.

18. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT.**—At every Monthly Meeting of the Board the Secretary shall present a statement in writing showing the receipts and expenditure of the Board for the current year up to the date of such Meeting, and showing the existing balance, if any, to the credit of the Board, and the existing liabilities.

19. **DECISION OF CHAIRMAN.**—The presiding Chairman shall decide upon any point of order or procedure, and his decision shall be final.

B.—REGULATING THE ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES AND THE CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION TO THE ROLL OF MIDWIVES.

1. Candidates must satisfy the Central Midwives Board that they have reached a sufficient standard of general education, and submit the following documents duly filled in and signed :—

(a) A certificate of birth, or of baptism, or a statutory declaration made by a competent person, showing that the candidate is not under twenty-one years of age, and, where the candidate has been married, the certificate of marriage also ;

(b) Certificates to the effect that the candidate has undergone the training set forth in *C* 1 (1) (2) and (3) ;

(c) A certificate of good moral character. This certificate must be in the form prescribed by the Central Midwives Board, and must be signed by two persons of position acceptable to the Board. Each person signing must state in the certificate that he or she has known the candidate for at least twelve months, and must append to his or her signature a statement of his or her calling or position and postal address. (Schedule, Form I.)

2. Candidates must pass an examination as hereinafter set forth. (See *C* below.)

3. A candidate who has complied with the above requirements and has successfully passed the examination shall receive a certificate in the form set out in

the Schedule, and her name shall be entered by the Secretary on the Roll of Midwives. (Schedule, Form II.)

4. The names of all women admitted to the Roll of Midwives under Section 6 (1) and (2) of the Midwives Act shall be printed in one single list and in alphabetical order.

C.—REGULATING THE COURSE OF TRAINING AND THE CONDUCT OF EXAMINATIONS, AND THE REMUNERATION OF THE EXAMINERS.

1. No person shall be admitted to an examination unless she produces certificates that she has undergone the following course of training, viz. :—

(1) She must have, under supervision satisfactory to the Central Midwives Board, attended and watched the progress of not fewer than twenty labours, making abdominal and vaginal examinations during the course of labour and personally delivering the patient. (Schedule, Form III.)

(2) She must have, to the satisfaction of the person certifying, nursed twenty lying-in women during the ten days following labour. (Schedule, Form IV.)

The certificates as to (1) and (2) must be in the form prescribed by the Central Midwives Board, and must be filled up and signed either by a registered medical practitioner or by the Chief Midwife, or, in the absence of such an officer, by the matron of an institution recognised by the Board, or, in the case of a poor law institution, by the matron, being a Midwife certified under the Midwives Act, or a superintendent nurse, certified in like manner and appointed under the Nursing in Workhouses Order 1897 and attached to such an institution, or by a Midwife certified under the Midwives Act and approved by the Board for the purpose.

(3) She must have attended a sufficient course of instruction in the subjects named below. (*See Rule C. 4.*)

No period of less than three months shall be deemed sufficient for the purpose.

The above Certificate (3) must be in the form prescribed by the Central Midwives Board, and must be filled up and signed by a registered medical practitioner recognised by the Board as a teacher. (Schedule, Form V.)

2. Candidates who intend to present themselves for examination must send notice to the Secretary of the Central Midwives Board at least three weeks before the date fixed for the examination to commence, accompanied by the certificates mentioned in *B. 1* and *C. 1*, and by the fee of one guinea, or, in the event of the candidate having presented herself on a former occasion and having failed to pass, the fee of fifteen shillings. In the event of a candidate being prevented by illness from attending or completing her examination after having paid the fee and having been accepted as eligible, she shall be admitted to a subsequent examination on payment of a fee of ten shillings and sixpence. In order to avail herself of this provision the candidate must produce a medical certificate satisfactory to the Board.

3. Any candidate who during the examination shows a want of acquaintance with the ordinary subjects of elementary education may be rejected on that ground alone. (See Schedule, Form V.)

4. The examination shall be partly oral and practical, and partly written, and shall embrace the following subjects :—

(a) The elementary anatomy of the female pelvis and generative organs.

(b) Pregnancy and its principal complications, including abortion.

(c) The symptoms, mechanism, course and management of natural labour.

(*d*) The signs that a labour is abnormal.

(*e*) Hæmorrhage : its varieties and the treatment of each.

(*f*) Antiseptics in Midwifery and the way to prepare and use them.

(*g*) The management of the puerperal patient, including the use of the clinical thermometer and of the catheter.

(*h*) The management (including the feeding) of infants, and the signs of the diseases which may develop during the first ten days.

(*i*) The duties of the Midwife as described in the regulations.

(*j*) Obstetric emergencies, and how the Midwife should deal with them until the arrival of a doctor. This will include some knowledge of the drugs commonly needed in such cases, and of the mode of their administration. (See *E.* 17.)

(*k*) Puerperal fevers, their nature, causes and symptoms.

(*l*) The disinfection of person, clothing, and appliances.

(*m*) The principles of hygiene as regards the home, food supply, and person.

(*n*) The care of children born apparently lifeless.

5. Due public notice shall be given of the examinations to be held under the Act.

6. The remuneration of the examiners shall be such as may from time to time be recommended by the Central Midwives Board and approved by the Privy Council.

D.—RULES OF PROCEDURE ON THE REMOVAL OF A NAME FROM THE ROLL, AND ON THE RESTORATION TO THE ROLL OF A NAME REMOVED.

REMOVAL OF A NAME FROM THE ROLL.

1. When it is reported to, or otherwise brought to the attention of, the Central Midwives Board that a midwife has been convicted of a felony, misdemeanour, or offence, or has been guilty of wilfully disobeying the rules and regulations laid down under the Midwives Act 1902, or of other misconduct, the Secretary shall, when investigation by the Local Supervising Authority is required, forthwith communicate such report or information to the Local Supervising Authority of the area within which the midwife resides, or of that in which the felony, misdemeanour, offence, act of disobedience of the rules and regulations, or other misconduct is alleged to have been committed (as the case may be), and ask such Authority to investigate the matter, and to report whether or not, in their opinion, a *prima facie* case of malpractice, negligence, or misconduct has been established against the midwife. Any report by a Local Supervising Authority shall, as soon as may be after its receipt by the Secretary, be laid, with all other information relating to the case to which it refers, before a Committee of the Board to be called the Penal Cases Committee, who shall report thereon to the Board, and upon such report the Board shall proceed to consider whether such a case has in their opinion been made out as to require an answer from the accused person.

2. If within a reasonable time after the making of a request for investigation of any case no report has been received from the Local Supervising Authority, the

Committee shall report to the Board on the case without further delay, or after such special investigation by a Solicitor to be appointed by the Board as they may think necessary. The Committee may, if they think fit, take the advice of the Solicitor at any time on a case before them, and may instruct the Solicitor to obtain proofs of evidence in support of the allegations against the accused person, either for consideration by the Committee, or to be laid before the Board with their report. The Committee may, if they think fit, before reporting on any case to the Board, ask the accused person for any explanation she may have to offer, and may consider such explanation and report thereon to the Board. If the Committee resolve that a case is one upon which proceedings ought to be commenced for the removal of a name from the Roll and the cancelling of a certificate, the Secretary shall direct the Solicitor to take all necessary steps for verifying the evidence to be submitted to the Board, and for obtaining the necessary documents and the attendance of witnesses. Any answer, evidence, or statement forwarded, or application made, by the accused person between the date of the issue of the notice hereunder mentioned and the day named for the hearing of the case by the Board shall be dealt with by the Secretary, in consultation with the Solicitor, in such manner as he may think fit, or may be referred by him to the Committee. All statements in the nature of evidence proposed to be relied on as part of the case against the accused person, except proofs of convictions verified by the officer of a duly constituted Court, which cannot be laid before the Board by oral evidence, shall be verified by statutory declaration. A copy of any such statutory declaration or certificate of conviction shall be supplied free of cost to the accused person before the day fixed for the meeting of the Board to deal with the case, or for the adjournment thereof.

3. If the Board decide that such case has been made out, proceedings for the removal of a name from the Roll or the cancelling of a certificate, shall be commenced by the issue of a notice in writing, addressed to the accused person by the Secretary, on behalf of the Central Midwives Board. Such notice shall specify the nature and particulars of the charge alleged against the accused person, and shall inform her of the day on which the Board intend to deal with the case and decide upon the said charge. The notice shall further require the accused person to forward her certificate to the Secretary before or at the hearing of the case, to answer in writing the charges brought against her, and to attend before the Board on such day.

4. The notice, accompanied by a copy of these Rules, shall be sent by registered letter to the last-known address or the enrolled address of the accused person, and shall be so sent as to allow at least fourteen days between the day on which the notice is issued and the day appointed for the hearing of the case by the Board.

5. The case shall be heard at a special meeting of the Board, of which at least seven days' notice shall be sent by the Secretary to each member. The accused person may be represented or assisted by a friend, legal or otherwise.

6. At the hearing of the case the Secretary, or other person appointed by the Board for the purpose, shall first state to the Board the facts of the case and the charge alleged against the accused person, and shall then submit to the Board the evidence which he has received in support of the charge. The accused person, or her representative, shall be entitled to cross-examine any witness appearing against her on matters relevant to the charge.

7. When the evidence in support of the charge and a statement by or on behalf of the person making the charge are concluded, the accused person, or her representative, shall be invited by the Chairman to address the Board, and to tender evidence in answer to the charge.

8. If the accused person does not attend as required, either personally or by representative, the Board may proceed to hear and decide upon the charges in her absence.

9. Upon the conclusion of the whole case the Board shall deliberate thereon, and shall, after due consideration of all the relevant evidence on either side, whether oral or documentary, pronounce its decision either forthwith or at a subsequent meeting.

10. If the Board find the charges against the accused person to be proved either in whole or in part, and the offence cannot, in its opinion, be adequately dealt with by censure and caution, the Board may direct the Secretary to remove the name of the accused person from the Roll of Midwives and to cancel her certificate.

11. Notice in writing, by registered letter, of the removal of the name from the Roll and of the cancelling of the certificate shall be sent by the Secretary to the person found guilty of the offence, and to the Local Supervising Authority of the district within which she resides.

RESTORATION TO THE ROLL OF A NAME REMOVED.

12. Application for restoration to the Roll shall be made in writing addressed to the Secretary of the Central Midwives Board, and signed by the applicant stating the grounds on which application is made. In cases where the cancelled certificate has not already been returned to the Board, it must be sent in with the application, or a statutory declaration made of its previous loss or destruction.

13. The application must be accompanied by a statutory declaration made by the applicant, setting forth the facts of the case and stating that she is the person originally enrolled. The declaration shall be in the Form given in the Schedule. (Form VI.)

14. The statements in the application and declaration must also be supported by the certificates of at least two persons, being Justices of the Peace, Ministers of Religion, or registered Medical Practitioners, who were and are well acquainted with the applicant before and since the removal of her name. These certificates must each of them testify to the applicant's identity and present good character, and they shall be in the Form given in the Schedule. (Form VII.)

15. The application, when duly supported by the declaration and certificates as hereinbefore provided, shall be considered at a meeting of the Board, made special for the purpose, of which at least seven days' notice shall be sent by the Secretary to each member.

The Board may adjourn the consideration to a future date, or require further evidence or explanations from the applicant.

16. After consideration of all the circumstances of the case, as submitted to them in accordance with the provisions of these Rules, the Board may, if they think fit direct the Secretary to restore the name of the applicant to the Roll of Midwives, and to issue a new certificate to her, on payment of the fee of 10s.

17. A copy of these Rules and of the Forms prescribed in the Schedule shall be supplied by the Secretary to intending applicants on demand.

E.—REGULATING, SUPERVISING, AND RESTRICTING WITHIN DUE LIMITS THE PRACTICE OF MIDWIVES.

DIRECTIONS TO MIDWIVES CONCERNING THEIR PERSON, INSTRUMENTS, &c.; THEIR DUTIES TO PATIENT AND CHILD; AND THEIR OBLIGATIONS WITH REGARD TO DISINFECTION, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, AND NOTIFICATION.

For explanation of medical terms see page 41.

Note.—When engaged to attend a labour the midwife should take an opportunity of visiting the patient in her own house to advise as to personal and general arrangements for the confinement.

1. The midwife must be scrupulously clean in every way, because the smallest particle of decomposing matter may set up puerperal fevers.

She must wear a dress of washable material, and over it a clean washable apron.

Note.—It is best to have the sleeves of the dress made so that the midwife can tuck them well up above the elbows.

A midwife, who is attending any case which is septic or in which there are foul-smelling discharges, must not go to another case without first changing her dress and thoroughly cleansing and disinfecting her hands and forearms and such appliances as she may have had occasion to use.

For list of appliances see 2 (a).

Note.—Unless the cleansing process be thoroughly carried out there will be, even after a healthy confinement, remains of blood, lochia, or liquor amnii on the fingers, and especially under the nails, which will there undergo decomposition, and so become dangerous to the next patient attended. The midwife must, therefore, keep her nails cut short, and preserve the skin of her hands as far as possible from chaps and other injuries.

2. When called to a confinement a midwife must take with her in a bag or basket furnished with a washable lining :—

(a) An appliance for giving vaginal injections, a different appliance for giving enemata, a catheter, a pair of scissors, a clinical thermometer, and a nail-brush.

The Local Supervising Authority may, in the case of untrained midwives, use its discretion with regard to insisting upon the carrying of a catheter and appliances for giving vaginal injections.

(b) An efficient antiseptic for disinfecting the hands, &c.

(c) An antiseptic for douching in special cases.

3. Before touching the genital organs or their neighbourhood the midwife must on each occasion disinfect her hands and forearms.

4. All instruments and other appliances must be disinfected, preferably by boiling, before being brought into contact with the patient's generative organs.

*5. Whenever a midwife has been in attendance upon a patient suffering from puerperal fevers, or from any other illness supposed to be infectious, she must disinfect herself and all her instruments and other appliances, to the satisfaction of the Local Supervising Authority, and must have her clothing thoroughly disinfected before going to another labour. Unless otherwise directed by the Local Supervising Authority, all washable clothing should be boiled, and other clothing should be sent to be disinfected by the Local Sanitary Authority.

* See Rule 24.

DUTIES TO PATIENT.

6. A midwife in charge of a case of labour must not leave the patient without giving an address by which she can be found without delay ; and after the commencement of the Second Stage, she must stay with the woman until the expulsion of the placenta, and as long after as may be necessary. In cases where a doctor has been sent for on account of the labour being abnormal or of there being threatened danger (see Rule 18), she must await his arrival and faithfully carry out his instructions.

7. The midwife must wash the patient's external parts with soap and water, and then swab them with an antiseptic solution on the following occasions :

(a) Before making the first internal examination ;

(b) After the termination of labour ;

(c) During the lying-in period, when washing is required ;

(d) Before passing a catheter.

For this purpose the midwife must on no account use ordinary sponges or flannels, but material which can be boiled before use, such as linen, or burnt afterwards, such as cotton wool.

8. No more internal examinations should be made than are absolutely necessary.

9. The midwife in charge must in all cases of labour examine the placenta and membranes before they are destroyed, and must satisfy herself that they are completely removed.

10. The midwife must remove soiled linen, blood, fæces, urine, and the placenta from the neighbourhood of the patient and from the lying-in room as soon as

possible after the labour, and in every case before she leaves the patient's house.

*11. The midwife shall be responsible for the cleanliness, and should give full directions for securing the comfort and proper dieting, of the mother and child during the lying-in period, which shall be held, for the purpose of these regulations and in a normal case, to mean the time occupied by the labour and a period of ten days thereafter. (See Rule 19.)

12. A case of normal labour in these regulations shall mean a labour in which there are none of the conditions specified in Rule 19 below.

DUTIES TO CHILD.

13. In the case of a child being born apparently dead, the midwife should carry out the methods of resuscitation which have been taught her.

14. As soon as the child's head is born, and if possible before the eyes are opened, its eyelids should be carefully cleansed.

†15. On the birth of a child which is in danger of death, the midwife shall inform one of the parents of the child's condition.

GENERAL.

16. No midwife shall follow any occupation that is in its nature liable to be a source of infection, or shall (except under the circumstances hereinafter mentioned) undertake the duty of laying out the dead.

In no case must a midwife lay out the body of any

* See Rule 24.

† It is highly desirable that the midwife should see that every birth occurring in her practice is notified to the Local Supervising Authority within 48 hours, together with the name and address of the parent.

patient on whom she has not been in attendance at the time of death, or a body upon which a post mortem examination has been made.

A midwife will not transgress this rule if, at the discretion of the Local Supervising Authority, she—

(a) Prepares for burial the body of a lying-in woman, a still-born child, or an infant dying within ten days ; or,

(b) Lays out a dead body in a case of non-infectious illness, provided that she is not attending a midwifery case at the time.

After laying out a dead body for burial she must undergo adequate cleansing and disinfection.

17. A midwife must note in her Register of Cases each occasion on which she is under the necessity of administering any drug other than a simple aperient, the dose, and the time and cause of its administration.

CONDITIONS IN WHICH MEDICAL HELP MUST BE SENT FOR.

*18. In all cases of abortion, of illness of the patient or child, or of any abnormality occurring during pregnancy, labour, or lying-in, a midwife must explain that the case is one in which the attendance of a registered medical practitioner is required, and must hand to the husband or the nearest relative or friend present the form of sending for medical help (see Rule 21 (a)), properly filled up and signed by her, in order that this may be immediately forwarded to the medical practitioner. If for any reason the services of a registered medical practitioner be not available, the midwife must,

* See Rule 24.

if the case be one of emergency, remain with the patient and do her best for her until the registered medical practitioner arrives, or until the emergency is over.

After having complied with the Rule as to the summoning of medical assistance, the midwife will not incur any legal liability by remaining on duty and doing her best for her patient.

*19. The foregoing rule shall apply :—

(1) In all cases in which a woman during PREGNANCY, LABOUR or LYING-IN appears to be dying or is dead.

PREGNANCY.

(2) In the case of a PREGNANT woman :

- (a) If the patient is a dwarf or deformed ;
- (b) When there is loss of blood ;
- (c) When there is any abnormality or complication, such as—

Excessive sickness,
Puffiness of hands or face,
Dangerous varicose veins.

LABOUR.

(3) In the case of a woman in LABOUR at or near term, when there is any abnormality or complication, such as—

A malpresentation,

Presentation other than the uncomplicated head or breech,

Where no presentation can be made out,

* See Rule 24.

Where there is excessive bleeding,

Where two hours after the birth of the child
the placenta and membranes have not been
completely expelled,

In serious cases of rupture of the perinæum,
or of other injuries of the soft parts.

LYING-IN.

(4) In the case of a LYING-IN woman, when
there is any abnormality or complication, such as—

Abdominal swelling and tenderness,

Offensive lochia, if persistent,

Rigor, with raised temperature,

Rise of temperature above $100\cdot4^{\circ}$ F., with
quickenings of the pulse for more than
twenty-four hours,

Unusual swelling of the breasts with local
tenderness or pain,

Secondary post-partum hæmorrhage,

White leg.

THE CHILD.

(5) In the case of the CHILD, when there is
any abnormality or complication, such as—

Injuries received during birth,

Any malformation or deformity in a child that
seems likely to live,

Dangerous feebleness,

Inflammation of the eyes, however slight,

Serious skin eruptions,

Inflammation about the navel.

NOTIFICATION TO THE LOCAL SUPERVISING AUTHORITY.

20. (1) The midwife must send notice to the Local Supervising Authority, in accordance with Rule 21, in the following cases :—

**(a) Medical help.*—Whenever she has advised under Rule 18 that a registered medical practitioner should be sent for.

**(b) Deaths.*—In all cases in which the death of the mother or of the child occurs before the attendance of a registered medical practitioner.

**(c) Stillbirths.*—In all cases of stillbirth where a registered medical practitioner is not in attendance.

Note.—A child is deemed to be stillborn when after being completely born it has not breathed or shown any sign of life. (See Rule 13.)

(2) *Change of name or address.*—The midwife must immediately notify the Local Supervising Authority of any change of her name or address.

*21. For the purposes of the preceding rules the use of the following forms shall be compulsory :—

* See Rule 24.

(a) Form of sending for Medical Help.

No. Date

This notice is sent on behalf of*

Address

I have advised that medical assistance be obtained on
account of

Signed..... Certified Midwife.

†The case is urgent.

Sent to (*name of doctor*)at (*address*)

Time of sending message

* Here fill in name of patient.

† If the case is not urgent cross this out.

The midwife shall make two copies of the above, making with the original document three forms in all. The original she shall keep, the second she shall hand to the patient's representative in accordance with Rule 18, and the third she shall send to the Local Supervising Authority as soon as possible, but within 24 hours at the latest.

(b) *Form of Notification of Death.*

To the Local Supervising Authority of the *Administrative County of.....

or *the County Borough of.....

or *the Urban or Rural District of.....

I, the undersigned, being a Midwife holding the Certificate No..... of the Central Midwives Board, hereby notify that the following death occurred in my practice on the..... day of....., 19....., before a registered medical practitioner was in attendance.

Name of Midwife

Address of Midwife.....

Name of deceased.....

Address of deceased

Age.....

Date of Delivery.....

* Strike out the words not applicable.

(c) Form of Notification of Stillbirth.

To the Local Supervising Authority of the *Ad-
ministrative County of

or *the County Borough of

or *the Urban or Rural District of

I, the undersigned, being a Midwife holding the
Certificate No. of the Central Midwives Board,
hereby notify that, on the day of

19, I delivered

living at

of a still-born child, no registered medical practitioner
being in attendance.

Sex

Full term or premature (No. of months)

Condition of child (whether macerated or not)

.....

Presentation

Name of Midwife

Address of Midwife

.....

* Strike out the words not applicable.

22. A midwife shall keep a Register of Cases in the following form :—

No.

Date of expected confinement

Name and address of patient

No. of previous labours and miscarriages

Age

Date and hour of Midwife's arrival

Date and hour of Child's birth

Presentation

Duration of 1st, 2nd, 3rd stage of labour

Complications (if any) during or after labour

Sex of infant Born living or dead

Full time or premature—No. of months

If Doctor sent for Name of Doctor

Date of Midwife's last visit

Condition of Mother then (See Rule 11, above.)

Condition of Child then

Remarks*

* If any drugs, other than a simple aperient, have been administered, state here their nature and dose, the reason for giving them, and the stage of labour when given.

*23. The Local Supervising Authority shall make arrangements to secure a proper inspection of the Register of cases, bag of appliances, &c., of every midwife practising in the district of such Authority, and, when thought necessary, an inspection of her place of residence, and an investigation of her mode of practice.

24. The rules or parts of rules in this section (*E*) which are marked with an asterisk shall not apply to midwives exercising their calling under the supervision of a duly appointed medical officer within Hospitals approved by the Central Midwives Board.†

25. Nothing in this section (*E*) shall apply to certified Midwives exercising their calling in Work-houses or Poor Law Infirmaries under the supervision of a duly appointed medical officer.

26. The proper designation of a certified midwife is "Certified Midwife," thus *e.g.*

Mary Smith,
Certified Midwife.

No abbreviation in the form of initial letters is permitted, nor any other description of the qualification.

* See Rule 24.

† These Rules are Nos. 5, 11, 18, 19, 20 (1), 21, and 23.

F.—DECIDING THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH MIDWIVES MAY BE SUSPENDED FROM PRACTICE.

In carrying out Section 8 (3) of the Midwives Act it shall be the duty of the Local Supervising Authority to suspend a Midwife from practice who has contravened any of the rules laid down by the Central Midwives Board for the purpose of preventing the spread of infection, and in the exercise of that duty the Local Supervising Authority shall, after communicating their decision in writing to the Midwife concerned, at once report any suspension (with the grounds thereof) to the Central Midwives Board.

G.—DEFINING THE PARTICULARS REQUIRED TO BE GIVEN IN ANY NOTICE UNDER SECTION TEN OF THE ACT.

The particulars required to be given in any notice under Section 10 of the Midwives Act 1902 shall be as follows :—

(1) The number and date of the certificate granted by the Central Midwives Board to the person giving the notice.

(2) Her Christian name and surname in full, and if married since the grant of her certificate, the name under which it was granted to her.

(3) Her usual place of residence, and if she carries on her practice elsewhere, the address also where she practises.

(4) If she practises or acts as a midwife outside the area within which she usually resides or carries on her practice, the date and address at which she commenced to practise or pursue her calling without such area.

(5) The notice shall be in the prescribed Form. (Schedule, Form VIII.)

SCHEDULE

Forms of Applications and Certificates required under the Rules.

APPENDIX OF FORMS.

FORM I.—*Certificate of Good Moral Character.*

(See Section B 1 (c) above.)

I certify that I have been personally acquainted
with.....
for a period of.....years, and that she is
trustworthy, sober, and of good moral character.

Dated this.....day of.....19.....

Name.....

Address.....

Position and authority }
for signing }

Signature of applicant.....

FORM II.—*Central Midwives Board.*

(2 Edw. 7. c. 17.)

No. Date

We hereby certify that.....
 having passed the Examination of
 the Central Midwives Board, and having otherwise
 complied with the rules and regulations laid down in
 pursuance of the Midwives Act, 1902, is entitled by law
 to practise as a midwife in accordance with the pro-
 visions of the said Act and subject to the said rules and
 regulations.

..... } Members
 } of the
 } Board.

..... Secretary.

FORM III.—*Certificate of Attendance on Cases.*

(See Section C I (1) above.)

I certify that.....
 (to whom this certificate refers) has, under my super-
 vision, and to my satisfaction, attended and watched
 the progress of not fewer than twenty labours, making
 abdominal and vaginal examinations during the course
 of labour, and personally delivering the patient.

Dated this..... day of..... 19.....

Name.....

Address.....

Position and authority }
 for signing }

Signature of applicant

FORM IV.—*Certificate of Attendance during the Lying-in Period.*

(See Section C I (2) above.)

I certify that.....
 (to whom this certificate refers) has, under my supervision, and to my satisfaction, nursed twenty lying-in women during the ten days following labour.

Dated this..... day of..... 19.....

Name.....

Address.....

Position and authority }
 for signing }

Signature of applicant.....

FORM V.—*Certificate of having Attended a Course of Instruction.*

(See Section C 1 (3) above.)

I certify that.....
 (to whom this certificate refers) has attended, to my satisfaction, a course of instruction in the subjects enumerated in Rule C 4, extending over a period of not less than three months, and consisting of not less than fifteen lectures, and has shown that she possesses sufficient elementary education to enable her to read and to take notes of cases.

Dated this..... day of..... 19.....

Name

Address

Professional Qualifications

Position and authority }
 for signing)

Signature of applicant

FORM VI. — *Statutory Declaration by Applicant for Restoration of Name to the Midwives Roll.*

(See Section D (13) above).

(1) I, the undersigned ^a
of ^b ^a Insert full name.
^b Insert address.

say on oath that the following are the facts of my case,
and the grounds on which I seek the restoration of my
name to the Midwives Roll.

(2) On the ^c day of 19 my ^c Date of Certificate granted by the Central Midwives Board.
name was duly enrolled by virtue of the following
qualification, namely

^d ^d Qualification appearing on Certificate.
(3) At an inquiry held on the ^e day of ^e Date of inquiry.

19 the Central Midwives Board directed my name
to be removed from the Midwives Roll and my certificate
to be cancelled.

(4) The offence for which the Central Midwives
Board directed the removal of my name and the cancel-
ling of my certificate was ^f

^f Insert charge on which name was removed.

(5) Since the removal of my name from the Roll

^g Insert
place of
residence.

I have been residing at ^g

^h Insert
occupation.

and my occupation has been ^h

(6) It is my intention if my name is restored to the

ⁱ Insert
proposed
place of
practice.

Roll to practise as a Midwife at ⁱ

^k All the
facts and
reasons in
support of
the applica-
tion should
be stated
shortly and
clearly.

(7) The grounds of my application are ^k

(Signed)

Declared at

on the day of 19.....

Before me

A Commissioner of Oaths.

FORM VII.—*Certificate in Support of Application for
Restoration of Name to the Midwives Roll.*

(See Section D (14) above.)

I,
of
certify as follows :

(1) I am ^a

(2) I have been and am well acquainted with the
said
both before and since her name was removed from the
Midwives Roll.

^a State
whether
Justice of
the Peace,
Minister of
Religion, or
registered
Medical
Practitioner,
and give
particulars
of position.

(3) The said
is the person whose name formerly stood in the Midwives
Roll with the following address and qualification :—

^b Address

^b Insert ad-
dress and
qualification
as formerly
given in
Midwives
Roll.

Qualification

(4) The said
is now trustworthy, sober, and of good moral character.

(5) I have read paragraphs (5) and (6) of the appli-
cation, and the statements therein contained are to the
best of my knowledge, information, and belief true.

Signature

Address

Position and authority }
for signing }

Date

FORM VIII.—*Midwives Act, 1902, Section 10.*

To the Local Supervising Authority of *the Administrative County of.....

*or the County Borough of.....

*or the Urban or Rural District of.....

I, A.B.

*(formerly).....

holding a certificate from the Central Midwives Board,
No., dated the.....

of..... 19....., hereby give you

notice *(a) of my intention to practise as a Midwife
within your area during the year commencing 1st
January, 19.....

*or, (b) that on the..... day of.....
in this year, I acted as a Midwife at.....

....., within your area.

.....(Signed) A.B.

Residing at..... and
pursuing my calling at

Dated this..... day of..... 19.....

AN EXPLANATION OF SOME OF THE WORDS USED IN THE RULES.

ABNORMAL. Unnatural, unusual, unhealthy. (*See*
NORMAL.)

ABNORMALITY. Unnatural, unusual, unhealthy condition.

ABORTION. Miscarriage.

ANTISEPTIC. That which is employed to remove or destroy the germs of blood-poisoning. (*See*
DISINFECTANT.)

CATHETER. An instrument for drawing off the water.

DECOMPOSING. Rotting.

DECOMPOSITION. Changes producing rottenness and foulness.

DISINFECT. To remove or destroy the germs of blood-poisoning.

DISINFECTANT. That which is employed to remove or destroy the germs of blood-poisoning. (*See*
ANTISEPTIC.)

DOUCHE. *See* VAGINAL INJECTION.

DOUCHE-NOZZLE. The part of the douche-tube which is passed into the front passage.

ENEMA. An injection into the back passage or bowel.
Also used to signify the instrument employed for giving such an injection.

ENEMATA. Injections into the back passage or bowels.

EXPELLED. Forced out.

GENERATIVE ORGANS. } Private parts.
GENITALS. }

HÆMORRHAGE. Bleeding, usually meaning excessive bleeding.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION. Examination by passing the finger into the front passage to feel the mouth of the womb, or the bag of membranes, or the child, or the afterbirth. An internal examination during labour is sometimes called "taking a pain."

LIQUOR AMNII. The "waters."

LOCHIA. The discharge from the front passage which occurs for ten days or so after labour.

MACERATED. Sodden, with or without skin peeling.

MAL-PRESENTATION. Unnatural presentation, a wrong part coming first.

MEMBRANES. The bag of waters.

NORMAL. Natural, usual, healthy. (*See* ABNORMAL.)

PELVIS. The ring of bone at the place where the legs are joined to the body forming the bony part of the passage through which the child passes.

PERINÆUM. The part between the front and back passages.

PLACENTA. Afterbirth.

PREMATURE. Before full time.

PRESENTATION. The part, either of child or afterbirth, felt on examination by the front passage.

PUERPERAL FEVERS. Puerperal sepsis ; fevers in child-bed or lying-in ; blood-poisoning.

RESUSCITATION. The reviving (used here of a new-born child which seems dead).

RIGOR. Severe shivering fit.

SECONDARY POST-PARTUM HÆMORRHAGE. Late flooding.

SEPTIC. Connected with blood-poisoning.

STAGES OF LABOUR :

First. From beginning of labour to beginning of "bearing-down" pains.

Second. From beginning of "bearing-down" pains till birth of child.

Third. From birth of child to delivery of afterbirth.

STILL-BIRTH. Birth of a dead child.

UNCOMPLICATED HEAD OR BREECH PRESENTATION.
Straightforward head or breech cases.

UTERUS. Womb.

VAGINA. The front passage.

VAGINAL INJECTION. Injection into front passage.
(*See DOUCHE.*)

VARICOSE VEINS. Knotted and swollen veins.

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THE MIDWIVES ACT, 1902

[2 EDW. 7. CH. 17]

MIDWIVES ACT, 1902.

[2 EDW. 7 CH. 17.]

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

A.D. 1902.

Section.

1. Certification.
2. Provision for existing midwives.
3. Constitution and duties of the Central Midwives Board.
4. Appeal from decision of Midwives Board.
5. Fees and expenses.
6. Midwives roll.
7. Appointment of secretary and supplemental provision as to certificate.
8. Local supervision of midwives.
9. Delegation of powers to district councils.
10. Notification of practice.
11. Penalty for obtaining a certificate by false representation.
12. Penalty for wilful falsification of the roll.
13. Prosecution of offences.
14. Appeal.
15. Expenses of local supervising authority.
16. Act not to apply to medical practitioners.
17. Extent of Act and action by English Branch Council.
18. Definitions.
19. Short title and commencement.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1902.

[2 EDW. 7. CH. 17.]

AN ACT TO SECURE THE BETTER TRAINING OF
MIDWIVES AND TO REGULATE THEIR PRACTICE.

[31st July, 1902.]

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

Certifica-
tion.

1.—(1) From and after the first day of April one thousand nine hundred and five, any woman who not being certified under this Act shall take or use the name or title of midwife (either alone or in combination with any other word or words), or any name, title, addition, or description implying that she is certified under this Act, or is a person specially qualified to practise midwifery, or is recognised by law as a midwife, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

(2) From and after the first day of April one thousand nine hundred and ten, no woman shall habitually and for gain attend women in childbirth otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner unless she be certified under this Act ; any woman so acting without being certified under this Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds, provided this section shall not apply to legally qualified medical practitioners, or to any one rendering assistance in a case of emergency.

(3) No woman shall be certified under this Act until she has complied with the rules and regulations to be laid down in pursuance of this Act.

(4) No woman certified under this Act shall employ an uncertified person as her substitute.

(5) The certificate under this Act shall not confer upon any woman any right or title to be registered under the Medical Acts or to assume any name, title, or designation implying that she is by law recognised as a medical practitioner, or that she is authorised to grant any medical certificate, or any certificate of death or of still-birth, or to undertake the charge of cases of abnormality or disease in connection with parturition.

2. Any woman who, within two years from the date of this Act coming into operation, claims to be certified under this Act, shall be so certified provided she holds a certificate in midwifery from the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, or from the Obstetrical Society of London, or the Coombe Lying-in Hospital and Guinness's Dispensary, or the Rotunda Hospital for the Relief of the Poor Lying-in Women of Dublin, or such other certificate as may be approved by the Central Midwives Board, or produces evidence, satisfactory to the Board, that at the passing of this Act she had been for at least one year in bonâ fide practice as a midwife, and that she bears a good character.

Provision
for existing
midwives.

3. On the passing of this Act the Lord President of the Council shall take steps to secure the formation of a Central Midwives Board, which shall consist of—

Constitution
and duties
of the
Central
Midwives
Board.

(1) Four registered medical practitioners, one to be appointed by the Royal College of Physicians of London, one by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, one by the Society of Apothecaries, and one by the Incorporated Midwives Institute ; and

- (2) Two persons (one of whom shall be a woman) to be appointed for terms of three years by the Lord President of the Council ; and
- (3) One person to be appointed for a term of three years by the Association of County Councils, one person to be appointed for a term of three years by the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and one person to be appointed for a term of three years by the Royal British Nurses Association.

After two years from the commencement of this Act, the members appointed under sub-section (1) shall retire, but shall be eligible for re-appointment annually. Any vacancy occurring by resignation or death shall be filled up in the case of a member appointed under sub-sections (1) and (3) by the body which appointed such person, and in the case of a member appointed under sub-section (2) by the Lord President of the Council ; members appointed under sub-sections (2) and (3) shall, on the termination of the period for which they have been appointed, be eligible for re-appointment for a like period.

The duties and powers of the Board shall be as follows :—

I. To frame rules—

- (a) regulating their own proceedings ;
- (b) regulating the issue of certificates and the conditions of admission to the roll of midwives ;
- (c) regulating the course of training and the conduct of examinations, and the remuneration of the examiners ;
- (d) regulating the admission to the roll of women already in practice as midwives at the passing of this Act ;

- (e) regulating, supervising, and restricting within due limits the practice of midwives ;
- (f) deciding the conditions under which midwives may be suspended from practice ;
- (g) defining the particulars required to be given in any notice under section ten of this Act ;

II. To appoint examiners ;

III. To decide upon the places where, and the times when, examinations shall be held ;

IV. To publish annually a roll of midwives who have been duly certified under this Act ;

V. To decide upon the removal from the roll of the name of any midwife for disobeying the rules and regulations from time to time laid down under this Act by the Central Midwives Board, or for other misconduct, and also to decide upon the restoration to the roll of the name of any midwife so removed ;

VI. To issue and cancel certificates.

And generally to do any other act or duty which may be necessary for the due and proper carrying out of the provisions of this Act.

Rules framed under this section should be valid only if approved by the Privy Council : and the Privy Council, before approving any such rules, shall take into consideration any representations which the General Medical Council may make with respect thereto.

4. Any woman thinking herself aggrieved by any decision of the Central Midwives Board removing her name from the roll of midwives may appeal therefrom

Appeal from
decision of
Midwives
Board.

to the High Court of Justice within three months after the notification of such decision to her ; but no further appeal shall be allowed.

Fees and
expenses.

5. There shall be payable by every woman presenting herself for examination or certificate such fee as the Central Midwives Board may, with the approval of the Privy Council, from time to time determine, such fee not to exceed the sum of one guinea. All such fees paid by midwives in practice at the passing of this Act and by candidates for examination shall be paid to the Central Midwives Board. The said Board shall devote such fees to the payment of expenses connected with the examination and certificate, and to the general expenses of the Board. The Board shall, as soon as practicable after the thirty-first day of December in each year, publish a financial statement made up to that date, and showing the receipts and expenditure, including liabilities of the Board during the year, which statement shall be certified as correct by an accountant who shall be a member either of the Institute of Chartered Accountants or of the Incorporated Society of Accountants. The Board shall submit a copy of such statement to the Privy Council, and if the statement shows any balance against the Board and such balance is approved by the Privy Council, the Board may apportion such balance between the councils of the several counties and county boroughs, in proportion to the number of midwives who have given notice during the year of their intention to practise in those areas respectively, and may recover from the councils the sum so apportioned.

Midwives
Roll.

6. There shall be a roll of midwives containing—

- (1) The names of those midwives who have been certified under section two of this Act.

- (2) The names of all other midwives who have been certified under this Act.

The entry on the roll shall in every case indicate the conditions in virtue of which the certificate was granted.

7. The Central Midwives Board shall, with the previous sanction of the Privy Council, appoint a secretary and such other officers as may be required, and every person so appointed shall be paid such salary as the Privy Council may approve, and shall be removable at the pleasure of the Board. The secretary shall be charged with the custody of the roll.

Appoint-
ment of
secretary
and supple-
mental pro-
vision as to
certificate.

A copy of the roll of midwives purporting to be printed by the authority of the Board or to be signed by the secretary to the Board, shall be evidence in all courts that the women therein specified are certified under this Act; and the absence of the name of any woman from such copy shall be evidence, until the contrary be made to appear, that such woman is not certified under this Act: Provided always, that in the case of any woman whose name does not appear in such copy, a certificate under the hand of the secretary of the entry of the name of such woman on the roll shall be evidence that such woman is certified under this Act.

8. Every council of a county or county borough throughout England and Wales shall, on the commencement of this Act, be the local supervising authority over midwives within the area of the said county or county borough. It shall be the duty of the local supervising authority—

Local super-
vision of
midwives.

- (1) To exercise general supervision over all midwives practising within their area in accordance with the rules to be laid down under this Act.

- (2) To investigate charges of malpractice, negligence, or misconduct, on the part of any midwife practising within their area, and should a *prima facie* case be established, to report the same to the Central Midwives Board.
- (3) To suspend any midwife from practice, in accordance with the rules under this Act, if such suspension appears necessary in order to prevent the spread of infection.
- (4) To report at once to the said Board the name of any midwife practising in their area convicted of an offence.
- (5) During the month of January of each year to supply the secretary of the Central Midwives Board with the names and addresses of all midwives who, during the preceding year, have notified their intention to practise within their area, and to keep a current copy of the roll of midwives, accessible at all reasonable times for public inspection.
- (6) To report at once to the Central Midwives Board the death of any midwife or any change in the name or address of any midwife in their area so that the necessary alteration may be made in the roll.
- (7) To give due notice of the effect of the Act, so far as practicable, to persons at present using the title of midwife.

The local supervising authority may delegate, with or without any restrictions or conditions as they may think fit, any powers or duties conferred or imposed upon them by or in pursuance of this Act, to a committee appointed by them, and consisting either wholly or partly of members of the council, and the provisions of

sub-sections one and two of section eighty-two of the Local Government Act, 1888, shall apply to every committee appointed under this section and to every council appointing the same, and women shall be eligible to serve on any such committees.

9. A county council may delegate, with or without any restrictions or conditions as they may think fit, any powers or duties conferred or imposed upon them by or in pursuance of this Act, to any district council within the area of the county, and the powers and duties so delegated may be exercised by a committee appointed by such district council and consisting either wholly or partly of members of the district council, and women shall be eligible to serve on any such committee. Any expenses incurred by a district council in the execution of any powers or duties so delegated shall, to an amount not exceeding such sum as may be prescribed by the county council, be repaid to such district council as a debt by the county council, and any excess above the sum so prescribed shall be borne by the district council as part of their ordinary expenses.

Delegation
of powers
to district
councils.

The provisions of this section shall apply to the administrative county of London in like manner as if each metropolitan borough were a county district and the borough council were the district council of that district.

10. Every woman certified under this Act shall, before holding herself out as a practising midwife or commencing to practise as a midwife in any area, give notice in writing of her intention so to do to the local supervising authority, or to the body to whom for the time being the powers and duties of the local supervising authority shall have been delegated under this Act, and shall give a like notice in the month of

Notification
of practice.

January in every year thereafter during which she continues to practise in such area.

Such notice shall be given to the local supervising authority of the area within which such woman usually resides or carries on her practice, and the like notice shall be given to every other local supervising authority or delegated body within whose area such woman at any time practises or acts as a midwife, within forty-eight hours at the latest after she commences so to practise or act.

Every such notice shall contain such particulars as may be required by the rules under this Act to secure the identification of the person giving it; and if any woman omits to give the said notices or any of them, or knowingly or wilfully makes or causes or procures any other person to make any false statement in any such notice, she shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

Penalty for
obtaining
a certificate
by false
representa-
tion.

11. Any woman who procures or attempts to procure a certificate under this Act by making or producing, or causing to be made or produced, any false and fraudulent declaration, certificate, or representation, either in writing or otherwise, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall on conviction thereof be liable to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding twelve months.

Penalty for
wilful falsifi-
cation of
the roll.

12. Any person wilfully making or causing to be made any falsification in any matter relating to the roll of midwives shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall be liable to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding twelve months.

13. Any offences under this Act punishable on summary conviction may be prosecuted by the local supervising authority.

Prosecution of offences.

The expenses of any such prosecution shall be defrayed by the council of the county or county borough in which the prosecution takes place.

14. Where any woman deems herself aggrieved by any determination of any court of summary jurisdiction under this Act, such woman may appeal therefrom to the court of quarter sessions.

Appeal.

15. Any expenses under this Act payable by the council of a county or county borough shall be defrayed out of the county fund or out of the borough fund or borough rate, as the case may be.

Expenses of local supervising authority.

16. Nothing in this Act respecting midwives shall apply to legally qualified medical practitioners.

Act not to apply to medical practitioners.

17. This Act shall not extend to Scotland or Ireland.

Extent of Act and action by English Branch Council.

The General Medical Council shall act by the English Branch Council which for all purposes of this Act shall occupy the place of the General Medical Council.

18. In this Act—

Definitions.

The term "midwife" means a woman who is certified under this Act, unless the context otherwise requires.

“Central Midwives Board” means the Board constituted under this Act for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Short title
and com-
mencement.

19. This Act may be cited as the Midwives Act, 1902. It shall, except as otherwise provided by this Act, come into operation on the first day of April one thousand nine hundred and three.

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